RAILROAD POTPOURRI

A Railfan's 40 Years of Photography

by

HOMER R. HILL

FRONT COVER

PRR shore train south of South Amboy, N. J.
with K4 #1468 on the head end - 1956.

INSIDE BACK COVER

CP mixed train #560 stops for water on
run between Chipman and Norton, N. B., July 9, 1959.

OUTSIDE BACK COVER

DL&W Phoebe Snow passes through
Morristown, N. J. in the early 1950's.

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PREFACE

Today there are many books about railroads available. Some feature a particular road, some are concerned only with locomotives, some chronicle a particular railroad's history, while others detail a particular facet of railroading. This book is none of those things; rather it is a potpourri of railroad photographs, taken at different times in various places over the past forty years.

Several people are deserving of my thanks for their help in putting this book together. My wife, Jean, did all the typesetting, after successfully deciphering my notes and correcting my misspellings. My son, David, also a railroad fan, helped with the editing and checked dates and locations for accuracy, as did Richard T. Loane, a friend of many years' standing, who is a knowledgeable and experienced railroad enthusiast. My gratitude to all three.

I would also like to thank the staff at Hill Press for the technical know-how and patience they put into the printing of this book.

All photographs were taken by the author.

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Chapter I
EARLY YEARS

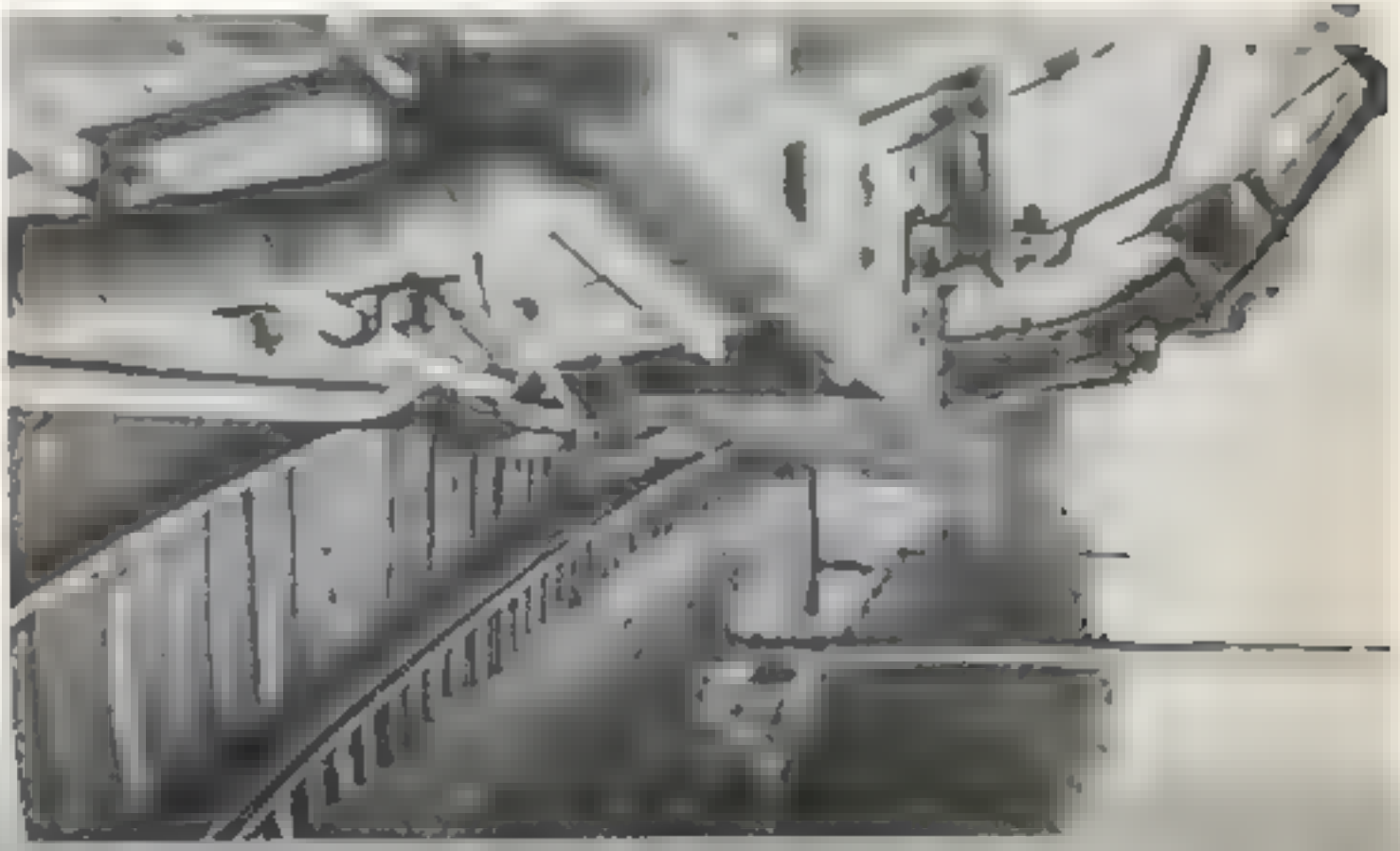
Most of us can remember the ubiquitous box camera of the 1930's. With fixed focus and pre-set shutter speeds, "stopping" the action was nearly impossible, so these early shots are limited to locomotive portraits rather than action photos.

My first box camera was purchased at the 1933 World's Fair in Chicago, so several of these early shots were made in the mid-west. Not too much traveling was done in the Depression years, so the other photos were made near home in New Jersey and a few were taken in New England.

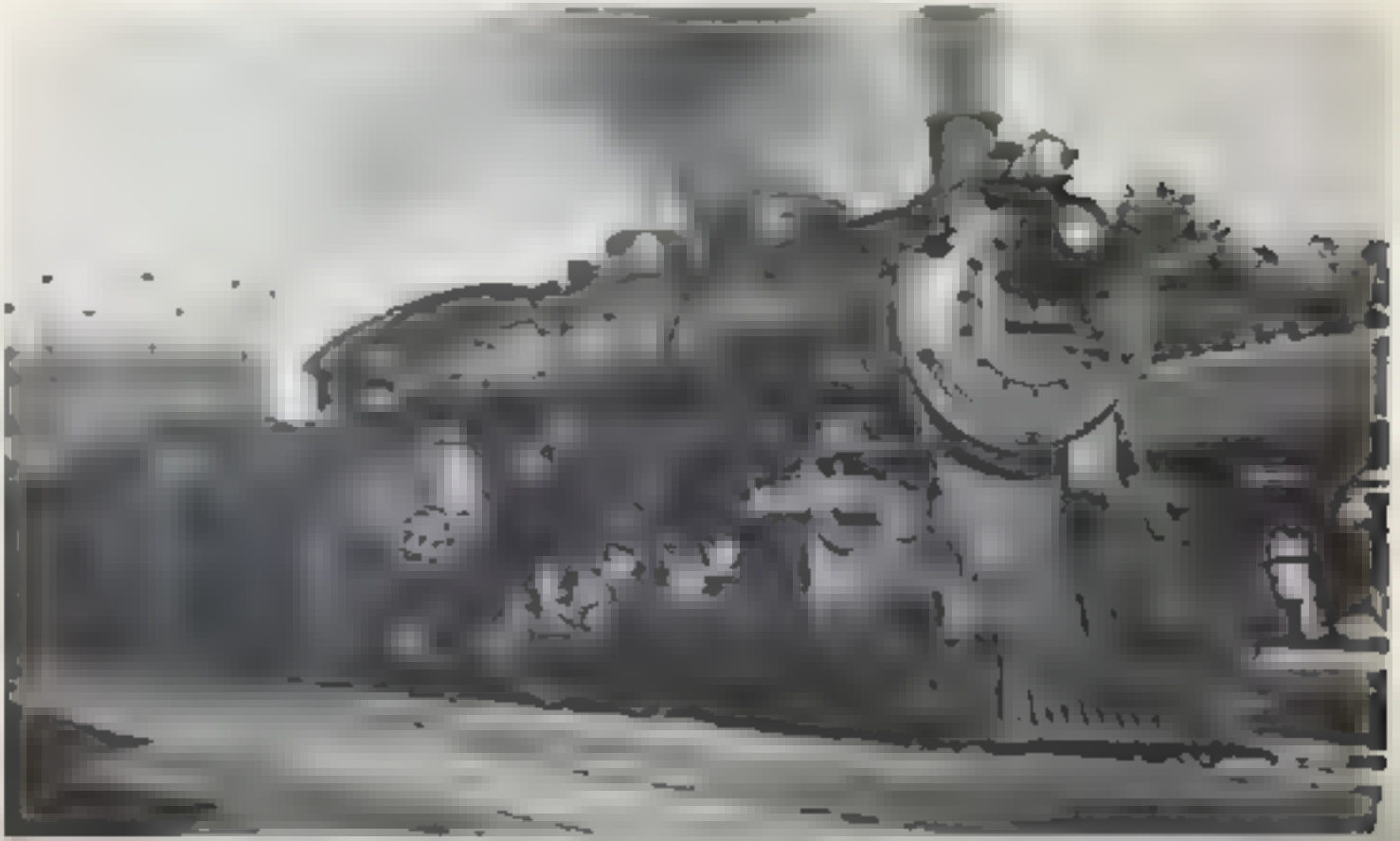
C&NW 4-4-2 No. 1088 at C&NW's station, Milwaukee, Wis., July, 1933.

Suncook Valley 2-6-0 No. 1 arrives at Center Barnstead, N. H. with train No. 1 - 1934.

C&O Pacific No. 2668 poses at Brookfield, Ill., in July, 1934, with a morning commuter train for Chicago.



Reading 4-6-2 No. 11 with a Philadelphia-bound local on the tracks of the CNJ at Plainfield, N. J. in 1913



Hoosac Tunnel By Wilmington 4-6-0 No. 21 is ready to leave the yard and interchange with the Boston & Maine at Hoosac Tunnel, Mass. in [illegible] 1934

Morristown & Erie 2-4-0 No. [illegible] on the D. & W. in Orange, N. J., in 1935

Two B&M electric motors are ready to [illegible] a westbound freight [illegible] through the Hoosac Tunnel

Chapter II

MILITARY SERVICE

During World War II, the author equipped with a new folding Kodak was stationed at various military installations in the United States. Records of that time are blurred, but most of the action was concentrated south of the RF&P Station at Alexandria, Va. A fellow railroad enthusiast was stationed at nearby Washington, D.C. and together we spent many off-duty hours at the RF&P's AF Tower. There a friendly and sympathetic lineman shared with two GIs some of the excitement and the joys of the increasingly busy wartime railroads.

Chapter III

NEW ENGLAND

During the 1940's and 1950's New England's rugged scenery and well-used railroads attracted [illegible] photographers. Maine boasted several narrow gauge lines and there was usually plenty of action on the Boston & Maine and the Central of Vermont as these photos will attest.

This was the yard at Monson, Me., a [illegible] narrow gauge Monson Railroad in 1940

R&M E3 No. 4227 arriving at White River Jct., Vt., with passengers from Mont Boscoe in 1953

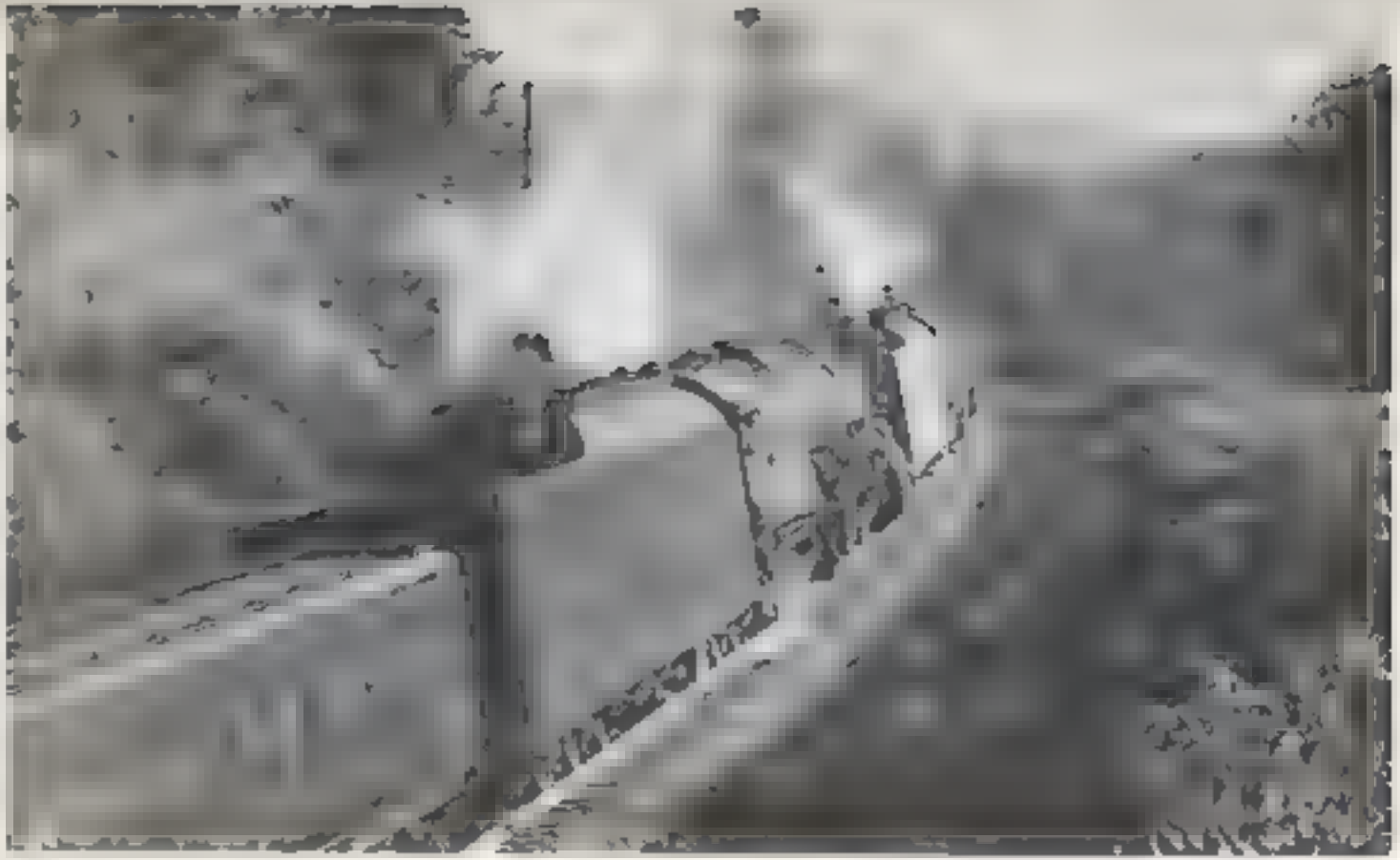
This is No. 8 in 1953 soon after she was restored to active service on the Edaville Railroad, South Carver, Mass.

Central Vermont 4-6-2 No. 600 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Chapter IV
ROANOKE

In the 1950's Roanoke, Virginia was THE place for railfans to visit to see the steam engines hard at work in their natural environment. The city's railroad history dates back to 1852. A number of railroads began operations as fast as coal could be mined and timber cut to supply them with the fuel they required. Norfolk and Western coal trains headed over the mountains to Blue Ridge in majestic procession. Passenger trains featuring sleek streamlined engines were a common sight as well. These photos exemplify steam railroading in the Roanoke area 20 years ago.

V-63, No. 2-41 leads double headed coal train up mountain, Blue Ridge, Va., Sept. 2, 1956



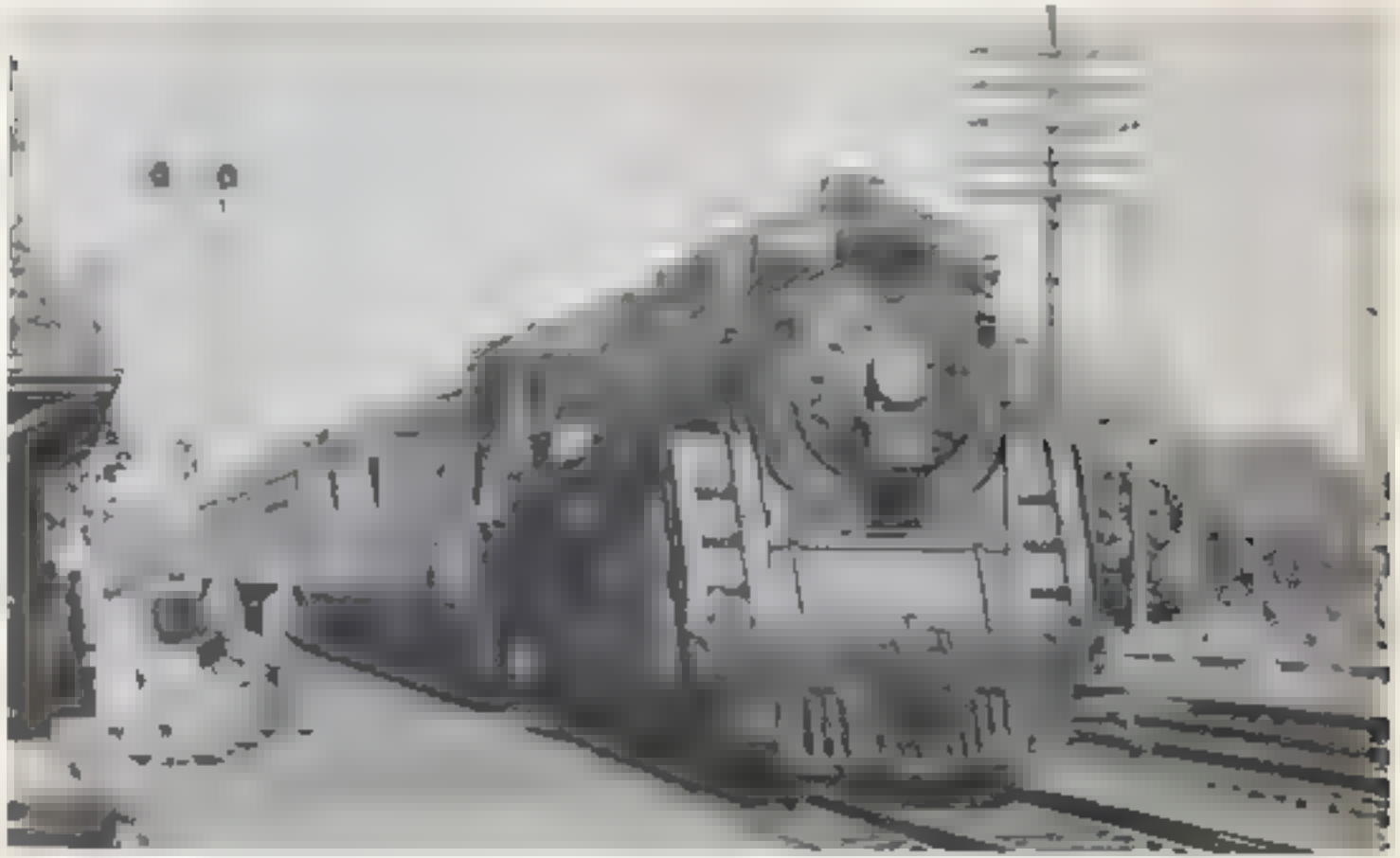
Two 2100's climbing upward the summit at Blue Ridge, Va., with an eastbound coal train

Underground Powhatan Arrow Plant No. 6, 0 ten miles east of Roanoke, Va. 1957

Chapter V
CANADA

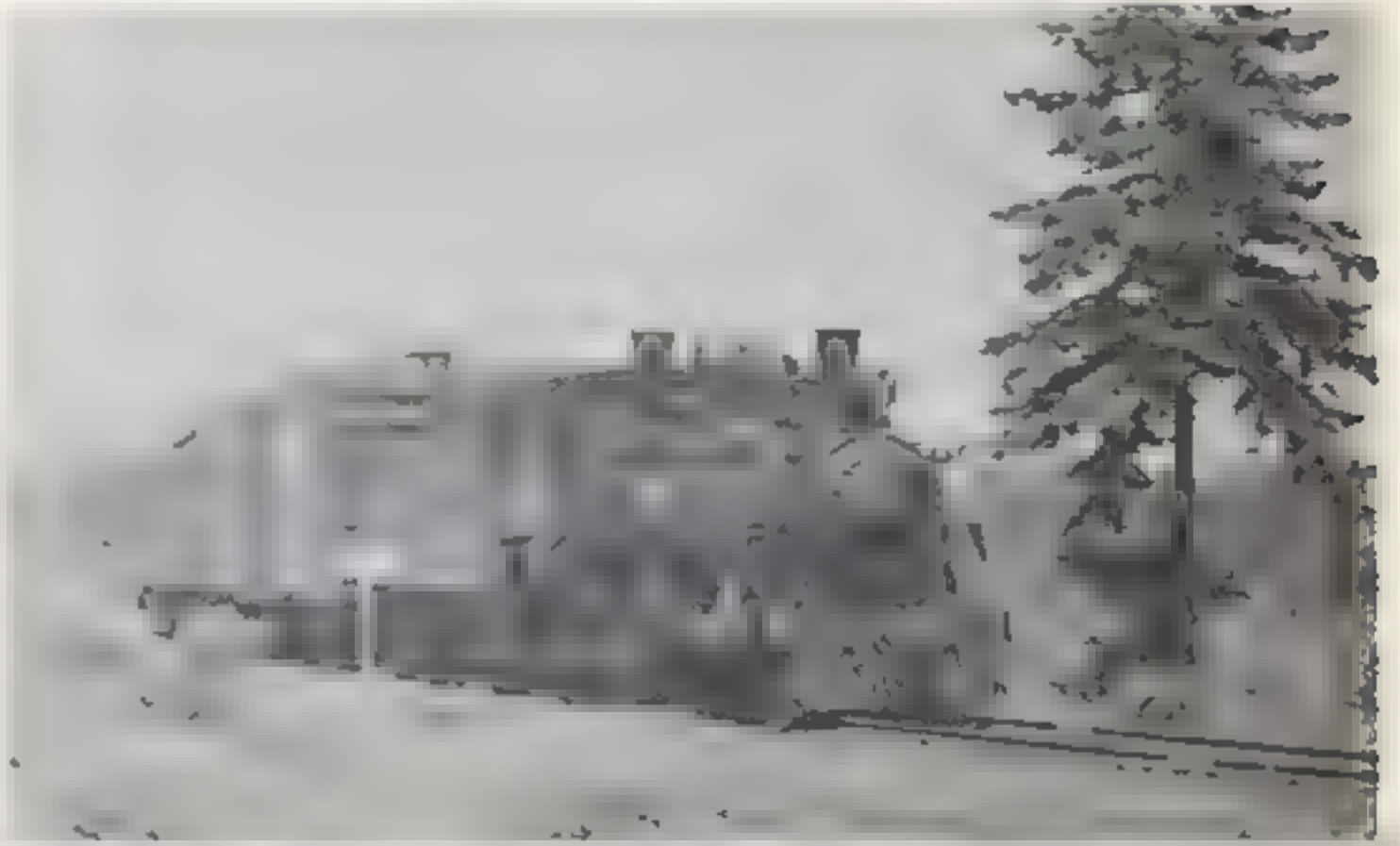
In Canada the steam engine flourished into the late 1960's. Dorval Quebec just west of Montreal was a mecca for railfan photographers as was Canadian National's Turcot Yard in Montreal. Many of the railroad's crack passenger trains passed by at this spot. On a good day 100+ passenger trains mixed with transcontinental freights as well as frequent commuter trains in the early morning and evening hours could be seen. Another spectacular place was Hamilton Ontario near Bayview Tower. Most of these Canadian pictures were made at either Dorval or Hamilton.

CN local eastbound at Carlyle, Ont., w... Pacific Inc. No. 5297 a... he trip, and August 26, 1954



CN 4-8-4 No. 6214 westbound at top of [illegible] Bay [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

CP mixed train No. 560 southbound between Chapman Norton with locomotive No. 144, 4-4-0, July 8, 1959



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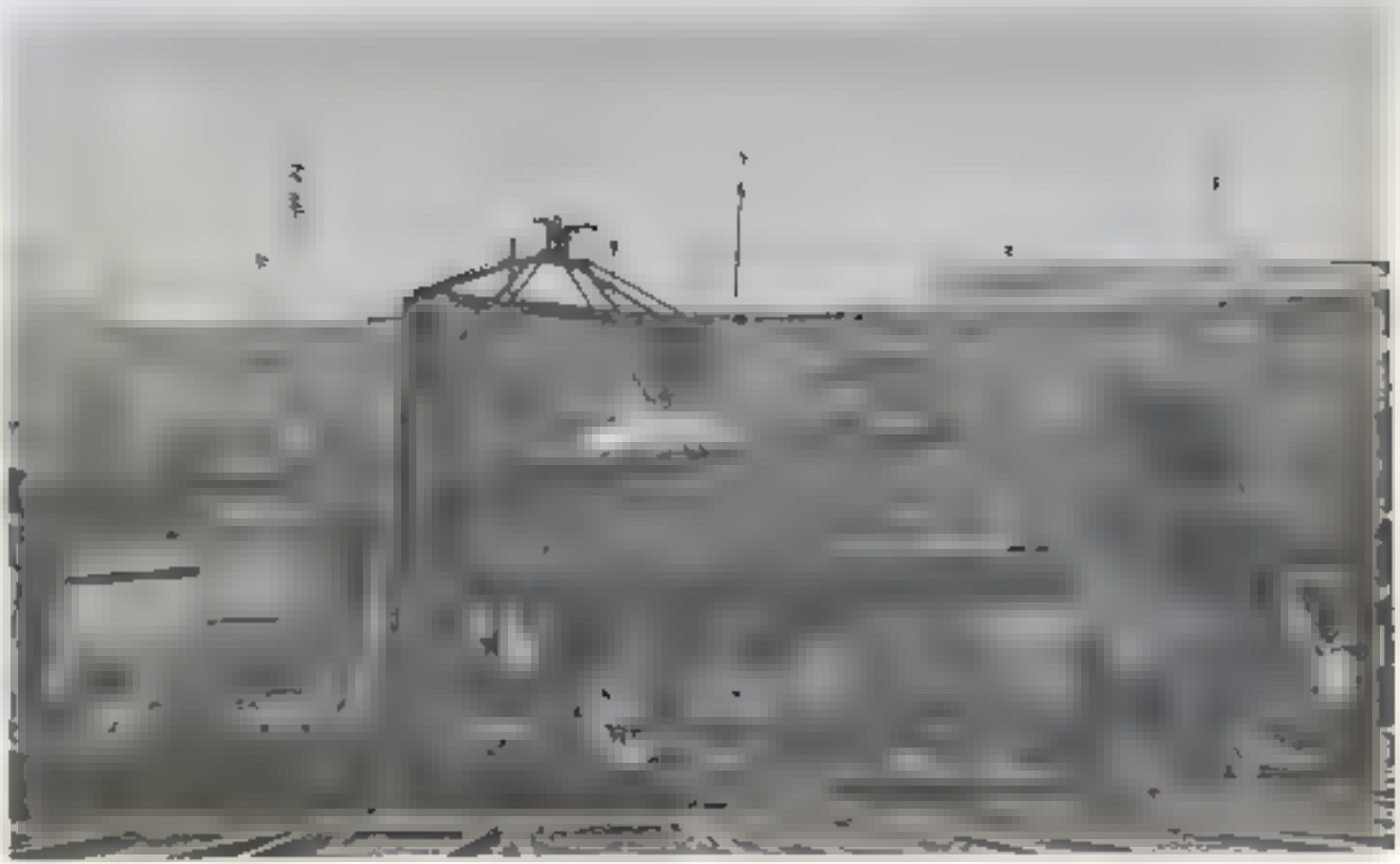
GP mixed No. 560 backing into Norton [illegible] and [illegible]



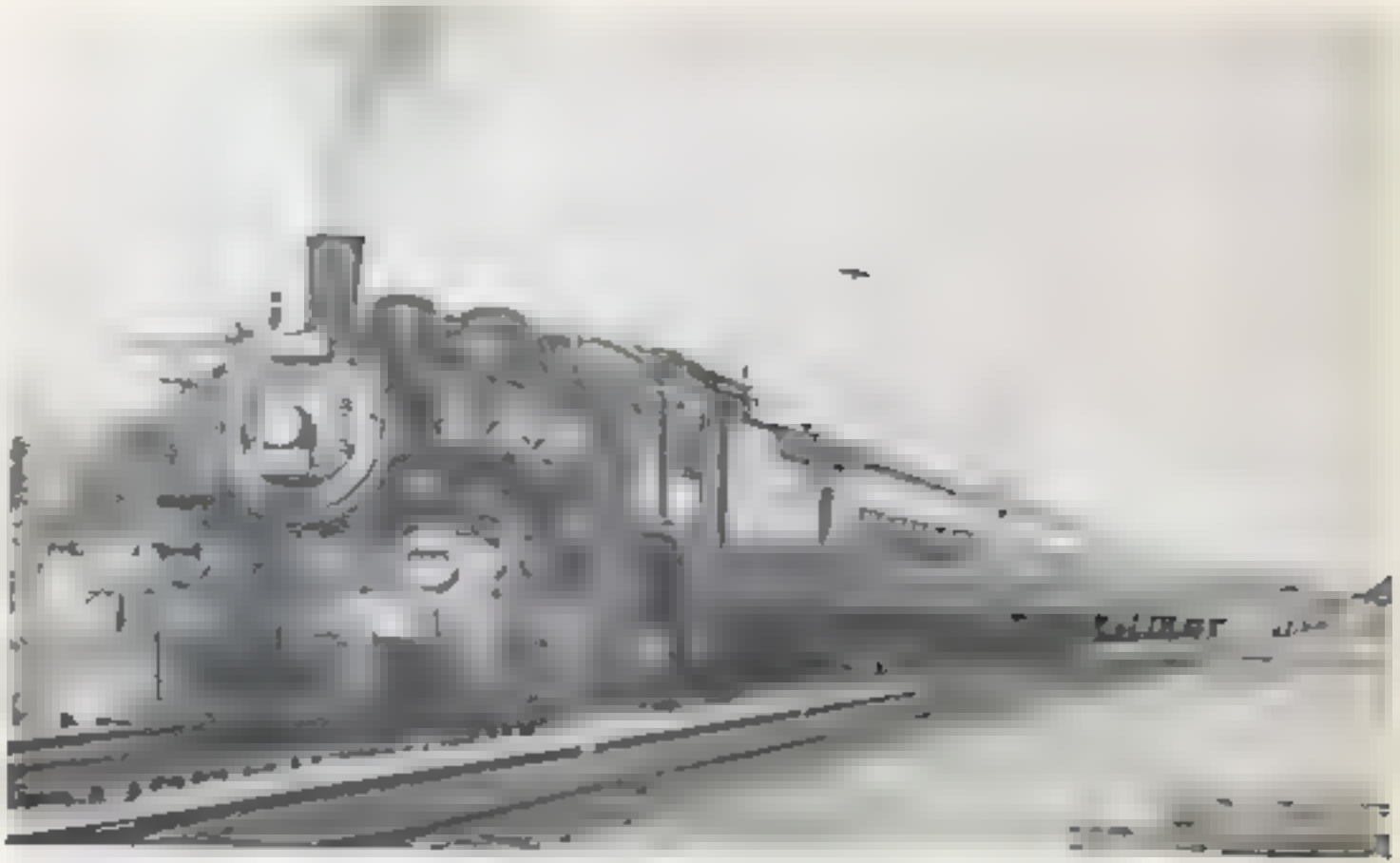
CN eastbound freight at Hamilton [illegible]

CN commuter train at Dorval Que... headed by No. 49 4 6 47 westbound in August 1954

CP 2-6 on approach to Revelstoke Station with Light Pacific No 2408 July 1954

CP Ottawa to Montreal train pulled by Montreal West header hauled by Pacific No. 1256 in September 1957

CP Rail No. 2537 leads a [illegible] water from a Dorval Quay July of 1954



CP No. 1 The Canadian leaving Ottawa [illegible] 3 unit FP 9 No. 4 2 RS 10 No. 6571 and FP 7 No. 403

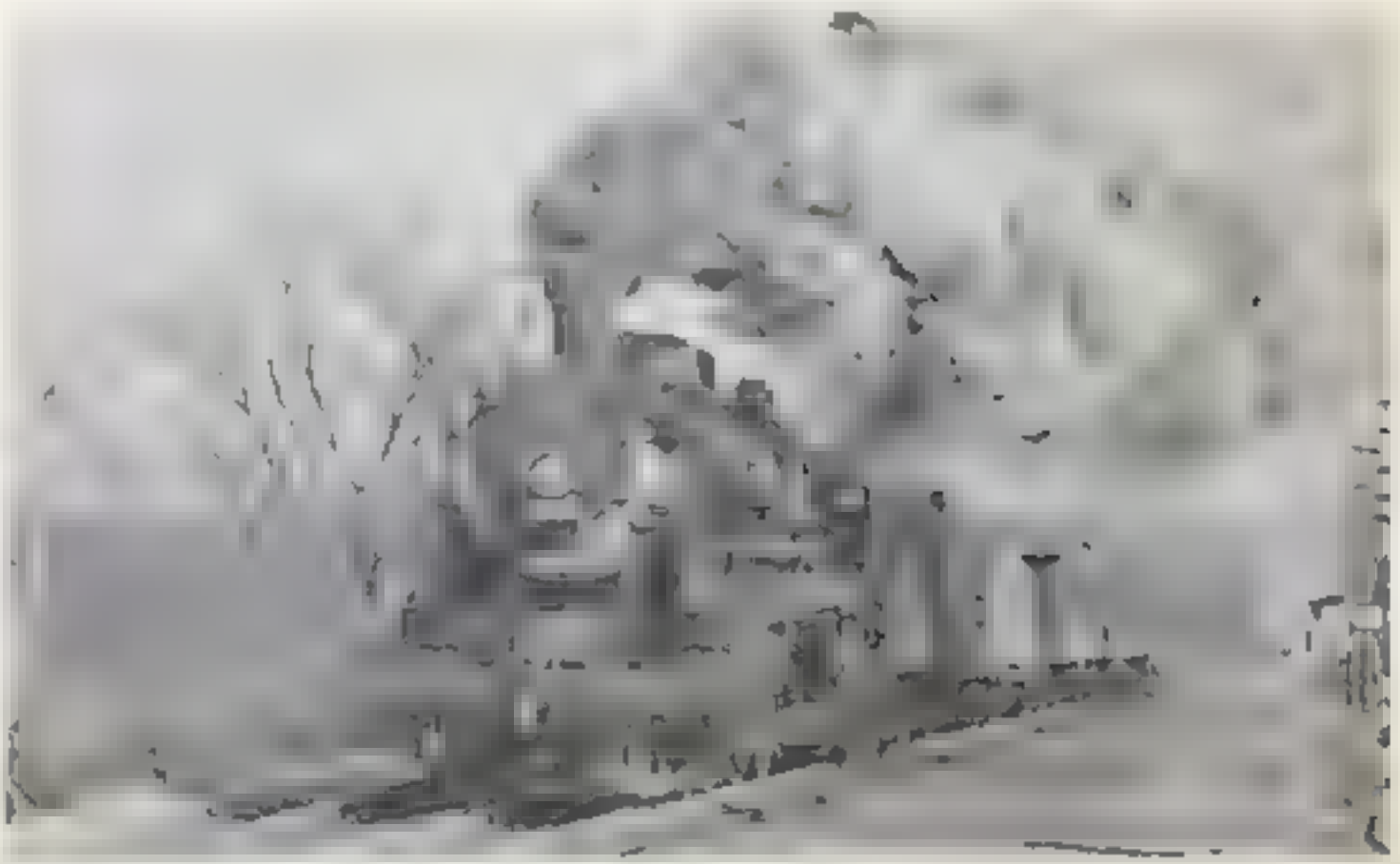
Chapter VI
LOCAL

The N[illegible] New Jersey ra[illegible]ads w[illegible]n[illegible]
[illegible]t[illegible]f[illegible]y w[illegible] back yard [illegible]ca[illegible]n be[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Lackawanna offers great variety. There were
trains with steam engines Hoboken to Chicago
reds pulled by diesels, as well as well-used
and dependable electric commuter trains. The
Pennsylvania and the Lehigh Valley roads, plus
the short line Morristown and Erie are also
included in this chapter.

DL&W Lackawanna [illegible] passing through [illegible] known [illegible] bright [illegible] by 4-8-2 No. 1404 about 1940
in 1943 Nos. 1401 [illegible] 05 were [illegible]

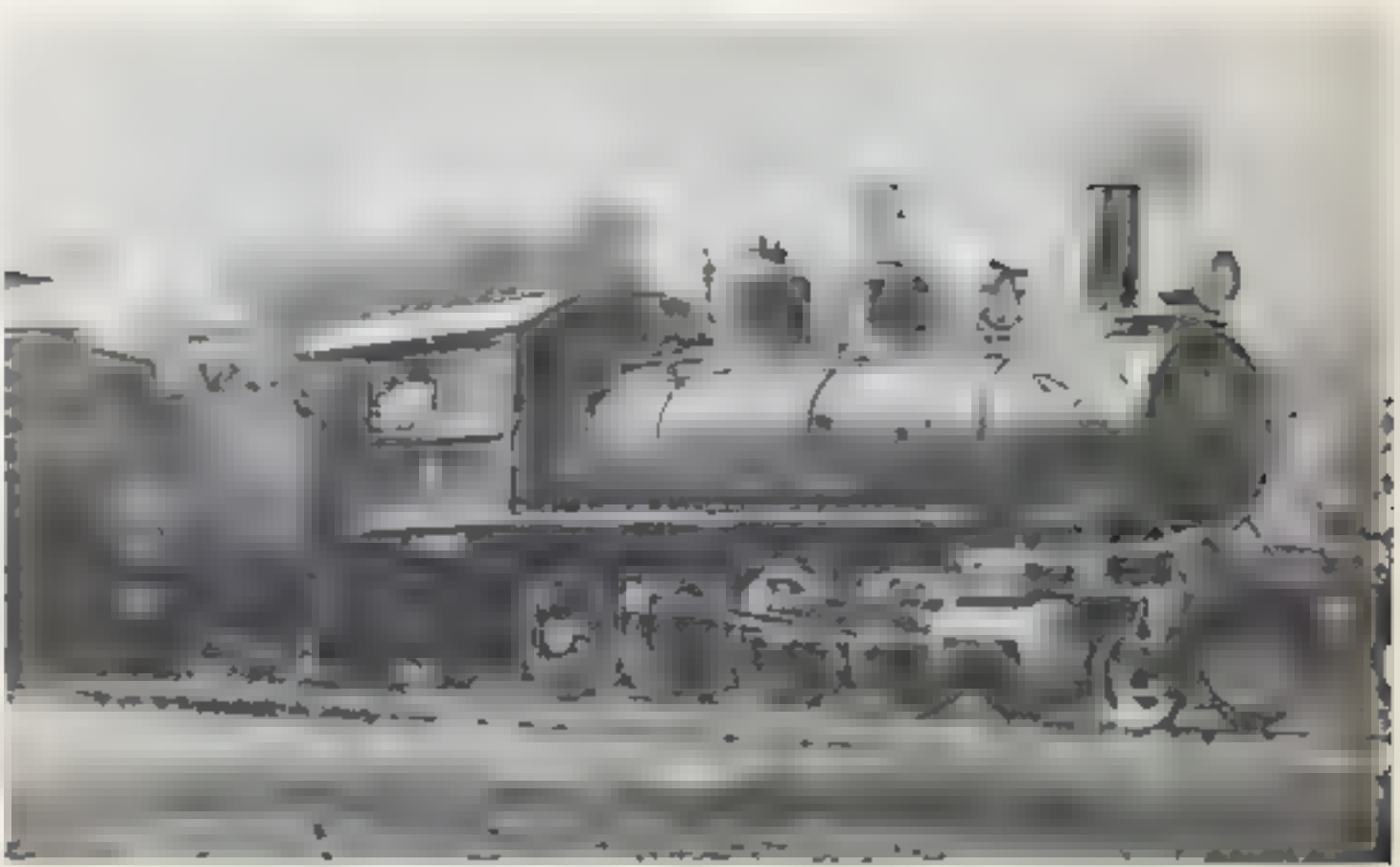
(1) B&W at same spot as preceding image. The Twilight Beam observation car No. B[illegible] in the mid-1950's

DL&W Brandtville boat leaving Hoboken, N. J. with Pa... No. 125 February 1953



Morristown & Erie 780 No. 10 on interchange with Delaware at Morristown, N.J.

Morristown & Erie No. 6 2-8-0 at Whippany, N.J., June 1938



Lehigh Valley & Black Diamond: About to depart Lehigh [illegible] 1950

Lehigh Valley's eastbound John Wilkes ... leaving North Pa... Junction behind PAT No. 601 1959

PRR K4 No. 7457 [illegible]

D.L.&W.'s Phoebe Snow [illegible] vessel [illegible] on Lake between Dover and Denville, N.J.
[illegible] No. 814 taken in 1955

Chapter VII
COLORADO

Colorado's spectacular mountain railroads of [illegible] a result of a railroad war. The [illegible] between [illegible] people [illegible] Jay Gould [illegible] Burlington & Atlantic railroads unfortunately did not get to Colorado until too late to [illegible] most of these western railroads in detail but the Denver Rio Grande and Western is still running from Denver to Salt Lake over Cumbres Pass, as these photos show

Denver & Rio Grande - View N... - The Sun... - ...porch ...ound ...etween Durango and Silverton - August 1964

Denver & Rio Grande - "The Silverton" in Rockwood Gorge headed by 2-8-2 No. 476.

Denver & Rio Grande No. 488 2-8-2 at Gambuta wye, snow shed in background - August, 1964.